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**Process for the preparation of a crystalline solid of derivatives of (N,N-diacetic acid) glycine with an adequately reduced hygroscopicity**

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**Applicant:** BASF AG (DE)  
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**Cited documents:**

 US3956379  
 WO9429421  
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**Abstract of EP0845456**

A method for the preparation of a crystalline solid comprising a glycine-N,N-diacetic acid derivative of formula (I) with a very low hygroscopicity, comprises fixing the water content of the starting material containing (I) at 10-30 wt.% and then carrying out crystallisation:  $\text{MOOC-CH(R)-N(CH}_2\text{COOM)}_2$  (I) R = 1-30C alkyl or 2-30C alkenyl (both optionally containing 1-5 OH, formyl, 1-4C alkoxy(carbonyl) or phenoxy groups and/or optionally containing up to 5 non-adjacent O atoms in the chain), alkoxylate groups of formula (II), phenyl-(1-20 C)-alkyl (optionally containing up to 3 1-4C alkyl, OH, carboxyl, sulpho or 1-4C alkoxycarbonyl ring substituents), 5- or 6-membered optionally benzalated heterocyclic ring containing up to 3 N, O or S atoms (optionally containing up to 3 1-4C alkyl, OH, carboxyl, sulpho or 1-4C alkoxycarbonyl substituents) or a group of formula (III):  $-(\text{CH}_2)_k\text{-O-(A<1>O)m-(A<2>O)n-Y}$  (II)  $-\text{A-CH(COOM)-N(CH}_2\text{COOM)}_2$  (III)  $\text{A<1>}, \text{A<2>} = 2\text{-}4\text{C } 1,2\text{-alkylene}$ ; Y = H, 1-12C alkyl, phenyl or 1-4C alkoxycarbonyl; k = 1-3; m, n = 0-50; A = 1-12C alkylene or single bond; and M = H, alkali(ne earth) metal or optionally substituted ammonium, with the provision that  $m+n = \text{at least } 4$ .

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